

Folly of Too Secret Intelligence

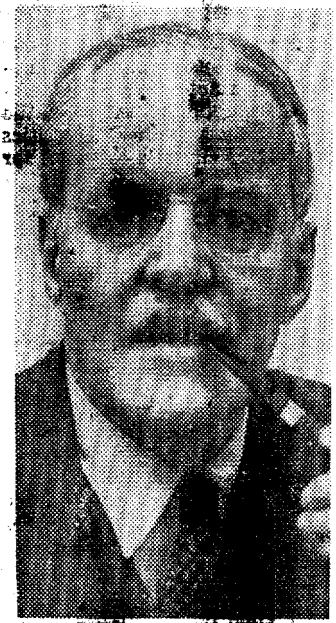
CPYRIGHT

This is the tenth in a series of twelve articles on international points of conflict with Russia based on talks with world leaders and national figures.

By Marguerite Higgins

WASHINGTON. The Eisenhower administration appears ready, at last, to abolish the secret practices which, in the past, have put the United States government in the ridiculous position of helping to hide from the world the truth about the misdeeds of the Communist empire. The psychological shield created by the United States for the benefit of the Reds is exemplified by the security classification that until recently kept secret the full story of Soviet intervention in the Korean War.

Among those taking the lead in the removal of this psychological screen are Allen Dulles, new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and C. D.



Herald Tribune - United Press
Allen Dulles

Jackson, formerly of "Fortune" magazine and now special assistant to President Eisenhower in the field of psychological warfare.

In separate conversations in their Washington headquarters, both men acknowledged this weakness of ill-served hoarding of information about the Communists had frequently boomeranged.

As a specialist in public opinion and psychology, Mr. Jackson is the first to acknowledge that one of the greatest sources of apathy in America and neutralism in our allies is the fact that so many of us don't know the full story of Soviet methods and tactics.

Example Is Given

Here is a specific example illustrating how lack of common-sense in secrecy classification can serve the Communist empire's cause.

When the first Soviet tank was captured in Korea in August, 1950, this writer, who was present at the battle, spoke with the enemy tank driver via an interpreter. It turned out that he spoke fluent Russian but only broken Korean. He stated that he had received his combat training on the Soviet side in the battle of Stalingrad. Although of Korean ancestry, he had been born and brought up in the Soviet Union. He had seen North Korea for the first time when he was dispatched by the Kremlin to participate in the Red-inspired invasion of the South.

The presence of former Red Army soldiers in the battle for Korea—many others turned up at the same time—obviously constituted a great potential weapon for exposing to the world how deliberately the Kremlin had plotted the Korean aggression. It was significant because Moscow was even then boldly claiming that the South Koreans had begun the war. But instead of telling the American people the facts, a secrecy label was placed on the presence of Soviet-trained soldiers on the Korean battleground. It was a very nice favor—for the Kremlin.

The same reasons for classifying information as secret are to protect the information or to hide from the enemy the fact that you have gained crucial knowledge about him: for instance, if you break an enemy code it is vital to keep that fact secret so that he won't switch codes on you.

As any reporter knows—and intelligence is another form of reporting—it is easy to use the source. Certainly one of the easiest ways is to confine your-

self to generalized statements. In the case of the Soviet tank driver, a statement could have reported that "Soviet personnel is turning in increasing numbers in South Korea."

New Attitudes Needed

Reversing standard procedures and injecting into our classification system a regard for the need of psychological warfare in getting across the facts about the Communists will require new attitudes from top to bottom in all the information gathering agencies: Army, Navy, Air and the State Department.

But both Mr. Dulles and Mr. Jackson believe that this can be done gradually. Certainly this administration is heavily committed to the concept of using truth about the enemy as a weapon for influencing the neutrals, and for warning those on our side of the dangers ahead of them.

It is unusual for some one connected with intelligence to understand the importance of getting the facts across to the public as well as the need for assembling information about the enemy. Mr. Allen Dulles has the self-confidence born of being a real professional in the intelligence field, which is comparatively new to a peace-time America.

Mr. Dulles is one of the few Americans who knows almost every phase of the intelligence business from first-hand observation, and who has stuck with this branch as a life-time career. He became well known to the world as a result of his work in World War II in connection with the July 20, 1944 plot against Hitler.

The new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who starts with the benefit of great respect and admiration of those working with him, has no illusions as to the difficulties of diagnosing the intentions and progress of the Soviet empire. As he put it, "The Communist empire is the toughest security nut in history to crack." Even in medieval times, Mr. Dulles pointed out, there was greater opportunity to travel in foreign countries and make observations of the Iron Curtain.

Dulles' Method

Mr. Dulles has already more than just talked about the necessity of informing the public about Communist tactics. In a recent speech he outlined, for example, the gruesome effectiveness of the Chinese brainwashing of American citizens. Most important to the future of this country in its war of ideas against the Reds will be the influence of both Mr. Dulles and Mr. Jackson on the National Security Council. It is this body which must be convinced of the necessity to achieve a sane balance between the concept of security and the need for giving the people on our side the chance to judge for themselves the truth about the Reds.

A Congressman recently charged that many American officials, being new to authority and security ideas, gained a childish sense of importance from the "I know something you don't know" psychology.

Although this has been all too true in the past, men like Mr. Dulles and Mr. Jackson fortunately feel convinced that it is time for a change on this score, too.

Copyright, 1955, N. Y. Herald Tribune Inc.



C. D. Jackson